

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00558 141114Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /036 W
-----141244Z 032422 /12
R 141051Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6716
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0558

NEA/RA FOR HOLLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB,PINT,CE
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF AAFLI PROGRAMS IN SRI LANKA

REF (A) COLOBO 0542, (B) COLOMBO 0387, (C) STATE 28705

1. LABOR OFFICER SPOKE WITH JUST-ARRIVED AAFLI REP. EMILIO GARZA FEBRUARY 14 AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND AAFLI ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA FROM NOW UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS. GARZA SPOKE TO PALADINO BY TELEPHONE WHILE BOTH WERE IN BANGKOK AND THUS WAS AWARE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND GREY. PALADINO ASKED GARZA TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION WHILE HERE,DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE AMBASSADOR, AND REPORT BACK WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON ABOUT FEBRUARY 28.

2. LABOFF REITERATED TO GARZA POINTS MADE IN REFTELS. GARZA WAS NONCOMMITAL, VOLUNTEERING ONLY THAT HE UNDERSTOOD EMBASSY ATTITUDE BUT THOUGHT THEAT ANY DECISION SHOULD BE MADE NOT NOW, BUT AT THE TIME THE NEXT VISIT IS SCHEDULED (MAY). LABOFF ARGUED THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS MANIFESTLY UNDERWAY ALREADY. INCIDENTS OF LAST FEW DAYS HAVE POINTED THIS UP--STATE OF
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EMERGENCY HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO LAPSE (SEPTTEL), NEW PARTIES ARE SPRINGING UP, AND THERE MAY BE A MORE FREE-SWINGING PRESS STYLE WITH MUCKRAKING AND INVESTIGATORY REPORTING MORE PROMINENT. GARZA MAINTAINED THAT AAFLI PROGRAM WAS VERY SMALL IN SRI LANKA, THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT IT WOULD PASS UNNOTICED IN CAMPAIGN DEBATE.LABOFF POINTED OUT THAT

MORNING PAPER HAD ARTICLE ANNOUNCING START OF AAFLI-
SPONSORED SEMINAR; CLEARLY, ITS PROGRAM WAS IN THE
PUBLIC EYE.

3. GARZA'S APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR IS SET FOR
FEBRUARY 17. EMBASSY WILL REPORT THEN IF GARZA GIVENS
ANY FURTHER INDICATION OF HIS AND AAFLI'S ATTITUDE.

4. FOR LAHORE: GARZA IN MIDST OF CONVERSATION REFERRED
TO JUST-RESIGNED AAFLI REP TED MANN,WHO HAD "SCREWED
UP" AAFLI IN PUNJAB IN NOVEMBER. WE ARE CURIOUS WHETHER
THIS WAS PURELY PERSONALITY CONFLICT WITH UNION LEADERS
OR WHETHER IT WAS MATTER THAT SUFFACED PUBLICLY AND THAT
MIGHT HAVE LESSONS FOR AAFLI AND US IN SRI LANKA.
REED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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